



Attorney Docket No.: 329368-101A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Chisari, et al.

Serial No.: 08/854,825

Filed: May 12, 1997

For: Hepatitis C Virus-Derived Peptides
Capable of Inducing Cytotoxic T
Lymphocyte Responses

Group Art Unit No.: 1648

Examiner: Parkin, J.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in this case before the calculation of fees and before examination of the subject application.

In the Claims:

Please delete the claims of the application as filed and substitute therefor:

67. (New) An isolated molecule comprising a polypeptide that induces an hepatitis C virus (HCV)-specific response in cytotoxic T lymphocytes having a sequence that [has]

(a) has no more than a total of two single amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions at the corresponding amino acid positions in a CTL epitope which is

LLALLSCLTV (Core₁₇₈₋₁₈₇; SEQ ID NO:2),

QLRRHIDLLV (E1₂₅₇₋₂₆₆; SEQ ID NO:3),

KLVALGINAV (NS3₁₄₀₆₋₁₄₁₅; SEQ ID NO:28), or

LLFNILGGWV (NS4₁₈₀₇₋₁₈₁₆; SEQ ID NO:35), or

(b) has no more than one single amino acid substitution, deletion or insertion at the corresponding amino acid positions as in a CTL epitope which is

ADLMGYIPLV (Core₁₃₁₋₁₄₀; SEQ ID NO:1),

LLCPAGHAV (NS3₁₁₆₉₋₁₁₇₇; SEQ ID NO:26),

SLMAFTAAY (NS4₁₇₈₉₋₁₇₉₇; SEQ ID NO:34), or

ILDSFDPLV (NS5₂₂₅₂₋₂₂₆₀; SEQ ID NO:42),

wherein said molecule comprises at least eight amino acids and less than 50 amino acids,

with the provisos that (i) when said selected CTL epitope is SLMAFTAAY (NS4₁₇₈₉₋₁₇₉₇; SEQ ID NO:34), then said molecule comprises from at least eight amino acids to less than 25

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